

THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 29, 1847.

The reader's attention is directed to our correspondence on the first and fourth pages of to-day's *Era*.

EDUCATION IN OHIO.

We are indebted to Mr. GALLOWAY, Secretary of State of Ohio, for a copy of his report on the condition of the common schools of Ohio, for the year 1846. As usual, it is a record of criminal delinquency. No State possesses more means of educating its whole population than Ohio, and yet her legislators are scandalously negligent. The appointment of a State superintendent might remedy the evil to a great extent, but the Whig and Democratic members of the Legislature think more of their petty party squabbles than of promoting the efficiency of the common school system.

We shall glean a few statistics in relation to public instruction:

Whole districts	5,676
Fractional districts	956
Common schools	4,332
Male teachers	2,581
Female teachers	1,958
Enrolled scholars—Male	19,534
Female	13,029
Average daily attendance—Males	43,714
Females	36,367
Wages of teachers from public funds	
Males	\$115,999.33
Females	45,258.89
Wages of teachers from other funds	
Males	22,237.88
Females	10,245.88

According to this table, a male teacher, on an average, receives about \$53.53 a year—a female teacher \$28! What sort of ability can such wages command?

Mr. Galloway says, that by a comparison of these statements with those of last year, it will be seen that the sluggishness of subordinate officers has increased. Every effort has been made, by writing, to induce them to make full returns, but they cannot be reached.

The total number of white youth in the State between four and twenty-one (the colored people are generally treated as if they had no souls) is 728,628.

Mr. Galloway estimates the number of whole districts at from 10,000 to 11,000—of fractional, from 1,500 to 2,000.

Taking Meigs county as holding an average position in point of instruction, he makes the following estimate for the whole State:

Male teachers	12,000
Female teachers	11,000
Scholars in average daily attendance	330,000
Schools	21,000 to 23,000
Wages paid male teachers from public funds	\$250,000
Wages paid male teachers from other sources	145,000
Wages paid female teachers from public funds	125,000
Wages paid female teachers from other sources	30,000
Enrolled scholars	500,000
Months taught	63,308

If these be even proximate estimates, the results are startling.

Of the 728,628 white youth of the State, only 330,000 in daily attendance on the common schools!

On an average, there are fourteens scholars to one teacher; on an average, each school is taught three months in the year, for the average sum of \$14 is paid a female teacher, and \$33 a male!

The total insufficiency of the system is at once obvious. They must be poor teachers who occupy themselves only occasionally in the business of instruction.

The difference between the wages of males and females must strike every third. The auditor of Meigs county, says the report, states that the average of wage paid males was \$13.00, and females \$4.58 per month. In New York, the average of wages paid to both sexes, per month, was as \$13.27 to \$6. We anticipated some comment from Mr. Galloway upon the miserable injustice of this difference; but, instead of this, he deduces from it an argument in favor of the employment of female teachers, as a matter of economy! Oh!

Now, just look at it. The service of female teachers, up to a certain age of the pupil, are just as valuable as those of the other sex, if not more so; and yet they do not receive half as much! What reason can be alleged for the difference, except the simple one—men wills it.

What kind of talent will six dollars a month command? The girl of all work, or the kitchen maid in a private family, in our large cities, may get \$7 a month. And shall the woman to whom we intrust the first care of our children's minds and manners, be paid less than half as much? What respectable woman will occupy such a position, if she help it?

Poor pay, poor service. The report furnishes specimens of the qualifications of many teachers in Ohio. One correspondent writes: "Not more than one in ten of the teachers in this part of the State is capable of teaching. There are teachers employed who could not give the cost of five bushels of corn at 15¢ cents per bushel!"

Another: "One-third of our teachers cannot do the simplest sum in the rule of three."

Another: "I was present at an examination of three applicants who were not able to spell half the words propounded."

Another: "Many parents in our neighborhood have withdrawn their children from the public school, in consequence of the incompetency of the teacher; we have not had for six years, in any district in our township, a teacher qualified to teach writing, reading, and arithmetic!"

Another: "There are not eight teachers of common schools in our county qualified. One has been teaching four years, who cannot do the sum in composition addition; and four of whom I know cannot write nor spell as well as one-half of the children under 12 years of age!"

We repeat the remark: it is the real issue now before the country—the one which, from the nature of the case, must be first tried and determined; and the parties to it are the slaveholders on one side and the non-slaveholders on the other. The slaveholders have already formally appealed to the final defeat of the Wilmot proviso, and the indefinite extension of slavery by the General Government. We were striving to show that this with them was the paramount question, which they concurred in tendering to the country as the main issue to be tried in every local and general election.

It was in view of this state of things at the South, of the apparent apathy of the Northern public, and of the fact that this great question would, in all probability, come up for final settlement in the next Congress, that we remarked: "The old parties (meaning in the free State) appear to be perfectly indifferent to what is in fact the true issue before the country—Shall slavery be extended by the power of the General Government?"

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But the *Emancipator* denies that this is any issue at all. "Our issue," it remarks, "is that of the principles of the Liberty party." Is the abolition of slavery, and we are not to be diverted from it to battle upon any such inconclusive issues as that of the extension of slavery? We may be dull, but we never separate the two. The final object of all our endeavours, of course, is the peaceful removal of slavery; but we believe it is an article in the anti-slavery creed, that the extension of slavery is one great means of perpetuating itself, while its limitation must powerfully contribute to its extinction.

If this be true, when the practical question is forced upon us, "Shall slavery be extended or not by the power of the General Government?" it seems to us wondrously like the quixotic trans-continentalism of "universal reform," to wrap ourselves up in the folds of our party dignity, and announce that "we are not parties to such an issue!" On the contrary, the Liberty party, per se, is a party to this issue; and if it fails to meet it wisely, it will prove false to its trust, and undeserving of the confidence of the country.

A few general remarks, and we have done. We are thus classified in the report:

Virginia military school fund \$138,023.957
United States military school fund 119,871,992
Connecticut Western Reserve school fund 158,659.095
School section No. 16 999,963.364

Total amount of irredeemable common school funds loaned to fund commissioners, and constituting part of the State debt 1,413,527.301

The interest on this fund, distributed during the year to the several districts, is \$85,201.512

Amount of common school fund paid to the several counties by the State 200,459.241

Total amount distributed to the several districts and counties during the year 288,660.753

The State common school fund consisted of the following items:

Balance in Treasury, Nov. 15, 1846 \$31,775.565

Tax of half a mill on the dollar, levied on the grand list, and paid by county treasurers 68,801.360

Amount paid through auditor's office 690,530

Auction duties 1,120,440

Pedler's licenses 4,791,670

Tax on lawyers and physicians	\$4,909.310
Tax on insurance and bridge companies	923.620
Tax on banks	27,920.630
Surplus revenue, interest at five percent	91,268.816
Amount distributed	232,294.941
Balance in Treasury	200,459.440

To see the day when it shall not be required; but they must endure forever. At present, we regard this organization as a necessity; and such will it continue to be, we doubt not, for many years.

Entertaining these views, we cannot make the mere party organization an idol, or an adherence to it a test of any man's orthodoxy on the subject of slavery. But, at the same time, it seems to us the dictate of sound policy for those who have committed themselves to it, and believe in its expediency, to adhere to its nominations, when there is not most conclusive evidence that such adherence will prove an actual obstacle to the success of the principles, which are greater than the organization.

On all these points, each Liberty man must be persuaded in his own mind. We would rather see a man err honestly, than blindly obey his party. God forbid that the day should ever come when the mere party organization shall exert as despotic a power over Liberty men as is the case with other parties. Should that day come, we, for one, would regret that a political party was ever organized.

What then? We must meet circumstances as they stand. Should our friends in this or that locality be at any time in doubt whether to adhere to their ordinary policy, or, for supposed sake of principle, to yield to an exception, we should first make ourselves acquainted with the circumstances, and if we think their doubt without foundation, try to prove it so! "Come, let us reason together;" should they be independent men, decide in opposition to our views, we ought to bear and forbear. We should have no more right to pronounce them traitors to the party than they would have to stigmatize us as traitors to the principles.

These are our general views as to the claim and course of a party organization. They are thrown out, not for the sake of ourselves, (for, since the year 1840, we have never voted any other than a Liberty ticket,) but to suggest to our friends the question whether we ought not all to be on our guard against becoming better partisans than philanthropists.

In relation particularly to the Presidential question, we have not the slightest expectation that either of the old parties will set up a candidate whom Liberty men could consistently support. No such expectation, therefore, has induced us in suggesting the postponement of a convention till next spring. But we do expect, by laying over the question of a nomination this fall, sufficient to be the action of parties, such as the doing of Congress, that not a few anti-slavery men, Whigs and Democrats, will be ready to unite with us, who would probably be prejudiced by premature action on our part. Let us show that we have confidence in our ability to act wisely when the time for action shall have arrived, and that we are willing to leave an open door for those who may choose to cast in their lot with us, even at the eleventh hour.

As to our waiting for "new developments," what has the *Emancipator*, what has the whole party, been waiting for during the last two years? For "new developments?" Common sense dictated that there was an obvious impropriety in committing a political organization to a particular candidate some two or three years before an election; and the same common sense, we think, dictates the remark of the *Albany Patriot*, that "it is well to leave the master till a period which will afford an opportunity fairly to make our arrangements, and carry them into effect with spirit and completeness."

Does the *Emancipator* impute to the *Albany Patriot*, *Merger Loyalist*, *Cincinnati Herald*, *Herkimer Freeman*, and *Bangor Gazette*, the same motives as those of the old party? It would be well for the editor of that paper to correct this habit of passing judgment dogmatically upon the motives of his co-laborers.

The course of the old parties, the action of the next Congress, may be of such a character as to force many adherents of the iron into our ranks.

Such ought to have some voice in the selection of the candidate to be voted for. This is but just and politic.

Besides, a change of circumstances, some modification in the action of parties, the peculiar character of their nominations, may dictate to the Liberty men the selection of a candidate next spring, different from one that might seem suitable at the present time.

At our last meeting, held in City Lecture Room, Finsbury, in the city of London, on the 24th of March, the following resolution was adopted, amid loud cheers:

"Resolved, That, overpowered with heartfelt gratitude at the prompt, decisive, and energetic action of the *Emancipator*, we then, suddenly and without notice, adjourned the meeting of the friends of Ireland at Washington, and, through your efforts, the *Irish Emigrant*, the *Irish Citizen*, and the *Irish People*, to a meeting of the friends of Ireland at Finsbury, on the 24th of March, at 8 o'clock, to ascertain the result of the election of the *Albany Patriot*, and to determine whether to support him or not.

Who has raised any question about the "necessity of an independent party?" It may suit the *Emancipator* to excite distrust of our party, but it will not be of any service to us.

It is sufficient to say of the closing paragraph of the article, that the version given of our policy is utterly groundless; there is not one particle of it which is wise, or honest, or true.

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SCRAPS.

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE.—Some men are very near never see beyond their noses. The Duke of Northumberland was once speaking of the comfort of reading newspapers at breakfast. "The comfort of reading the newspapers!" said Lord Mansfield. "Mark my words; you and I shall not live to see it, but sooner or later, these newspapers, if they go on as they now do, will most assuredly write down the Duke of Northumberland out of their titles and possessions, and the country of its King. Mark my words, for this will happen."

Very well; whatever newspapers can write down in the long run, ought not to stand.

GOLIATH AND DAVID.—The Wayne county Democrat, an Ohio paper, seems to think that Goliath of Gath was the type of Mexico, while little David symbolized the United States. Hear him:

"He who gave success to the peoples of the world—of the Israelites against the Pharaohs—was he not called 'Wayne' and 'Goliath' to achieve and defend the liberties of the Western world; and who gives success to Taylor and his gallant little army of prayerful soldiers, against a mighty host of the enemies of God and Liberty, can, it is to be hoped, be the type of man-kind, and for his own honor and glory?"

Our "gallant little army," we fear, has not been very attentive to its devotions in Mexico, and it would be well to give a ring sing of David's sling.

"Don't Fear a Warm Bath"—An impression is prevalent that the warm bath makes those who use it liable to cold, the committee for promoting the establishment of baths and wash-houses have published a certificate to the contrary, signed by 144 eminent physicians and surgeons—"Baths are safe."

Some people, judging from their aversion to both hot and cold baths, seem to think that this is the best security against change of weather.

ANOTHER LIBERTY MAN ELECTED.—At the last trial for Representative in the Chesterfield district, Maine, Mr. Baker, formerly a Democrat, was elected by the Liberty men. This carries the number up to ten, twice as many as last year.

THE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRAT.—New Hampshire, an eminently practical and efficient anti-slavery paper, announces that it has a larger circulation than any Democratic paper in the State. The publishers say that they intend to commence the third volume with new type and on a larger sheet. Success attend them.

facts, but trust entirely, my dear ladies, to your good hearts and good understanding.

I sign a name which has been transmitted to me unsealed by falsehood.

MARIA EDEGWORTH.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Those gentlemen, in different parts of the country, who have given their subscriptions to Mr. Hobart and Mr. Hudson, and who have not remitted the money to the undersigned, are earnestly requested to do so without delay.

L. T.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

The Anniversary of the American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society will be held, with Divine permission, at the Broadway Tabernacle, New York, on Tuesday, May 11th, at three o'clock P. M., when the Annual Report will be made, and several addresses delivered. It is hoped that there will be a large concourse of friends of the cause from different parts of the country, as the meeting is expected to be one of unusual interest.

It is proposed to have a Public Breakfast on Wednesday, May 12th, tickets for which, admitting Ladies and Gentlemen, will be obtained at the Rooms of the Society, No. 5 Spruce street. After the report, addresses will be made by several gentlemen.

There is a happy a strong desire on the part of our leading people to abandon those practices which degrade and imbrute the mind, and to substitute the arts which tend to elevation and improvement of society.

In addition to these, the Native Americans and many neutral papers have come out in his favor. Some of the more sober portions of the Whig press are beginning to enter their dissent.

CHRISTIAN PARLOR MAGAZINE.—The fourth volume of the *Christian Parlor Magazine* appears under new auspices. J. T. HEDLEY, the author of several popular works, a spirited and picturesque writer, is announced as editor. The reverend gentleman has a belligerent prolixity, as evinced by the character of the works he has written, but we hope it will be somewhat tamed by the proprieties of the "Christian Parlor."

The ruling passion, however, will show itself in the number before us, in the amazement description of "the Battle of Monmouth."

CONNECTICUT.

The result of the Connecticut election is officially stated as follows:

Clark Bissell, (W.)	- - - - - 30,137
Thomas T. Whittlesey, (D.)	- - - - - 27,402
Francis Gillette, (Abol.)	- - - - - 2,094
Scatterring	- - - - - 41
Bissell's majority over all others	- - - - - 29,537

VIRGINIA ELECTION.

In 1844, the Whigs elected four members of Congress from Virginia. Last year they had but one. The election this year has resulted in the choice of perhaps three Whigs. The facts are not yet ascertained. JOHN M. BORRIS and J. S. PREDETTO are certainly elected.

DROMGOOLE, who was reported to have lost his election, is chosen by a majority of 22; and Atkinson, another doubtful, is elected by a majority of 30.

S.—Elected—Atkinson, Dromgoole, Tredway, Boocock, Bayle, Beilinger, McDowell, Brown, all Democrats; also, Botts, Pendleton, and Goggin, all Whigs.

Three doubtful; probably Democratic.

ECCLESIASTICAL TESTIMONIES.—The Baptist clergy of New England are rapidly signing the strong protest against slavery, which has been alluded to in a previous number of the *Era*. In the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends, a division took place two years ago, upon doctrinal grounds. The smaller meeting has just issued an excellent "Testimony" against slavery, decidedly in advance of any previous action of Friends in this section, who have too generally rested satisfied with the fact that slavery had no existence in the Society, and have too ready to censure the manner in which others attempted to rid themselves and the country of the great evil. If the division shall have the effect to revive the ancient spirit of Quakerism on this subject, and provoke to a rivalry of good works, it can scarcely be regarded as an evil.

J. G. W.

Faithful among the Faithless.—The Boston Courier, edited by JOSEPH T. BUCKINGHAM, one of the ablest, as well as one of the oldest editors in the country, who is to New England what Charles Hamond was to the West, comes out strongly, honestly, and above board, against the proposition to nominate General Taylor for the Presidency.

J. G. W.

Correspondence of the North American. ATTEMPT TO KIDNAP—A GREAT EXCITEMENT.

PITTSBURGH, April 16.

We had quite an excitement this morning at the Montegomery House. A slave-catcher accompanied by a companion, attempted to take a slave, (so they say) off his master, and we have only their say for it, at that house. I don't know whether he was a waster there or not; probably he was; but they caught him there, and attempted to tie him when he halloed, "murder" at a tremendous rate. This brought up all the colored people in the house, and they all got out, and the slave-catcher took off, when they fell on them, carried off the man, beat the slave-catchers when they resisted, and finally got out warrants and arrested them both. I believe this is a penitentiary offence under the new law. At all events, did they a very foolish thing to come here and try to kidnap a man in open daylight?

I saw most or all of the melee. The kidnappers did not stand the hundredth part of a chance. I saw one of them put his hand in his coat pocket three times, to pull out a pistol and Bowie knife, but very fortunately did not. It would have been a capital stroke to have got the "Colored Home" and therefore the nest, tidy, cheerful parlor of the Asylum contained the whole of the audience that assembled.

During the excitement, the whole number of persons and female was found to be hundred and sixty-four. The establishment is divided into three departments—the male wards, female wards, and nursery. Gratifying evidence has been afforded of the new and improved condition of the inmates. The chaplain reads, and touches the memory of the last days of an old man who at the patriarchal age of one hundred years, fell asleep in full hope of meeting his Redeemer.

An address was delivered by Dr. Potts—a stalwart man and female was found to be hundred and sixty-four. The establishment is divided into three departments—the male wards, female wards, and nursery. Gratifying evidence has been afforded of the new and improved condition of the inmates. The chaplain reads, and touches the memory of the last days of an old man who at the patriarchal age of one hundred years, fell asleep in full hope of meeting his Redeemer.

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